

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EB-11 IGA-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8573

UNCLAS RABAT 1361

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID MO

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY COMPLAINT RE TINPLATE SHIPMENT UNDER
AID LOAN (608- G-041)

1. ON BEHALF FOREIGN MINISTER, CHIEF EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN SECTION FOREIGN MINISTRY GHALI BENHIMA CALLED POL COUNSELOR IN ON MARCH 26 AND REGISTERED STRONG PROTEST FAILURE NORLANTIC STEEL EXPORT CORP., N. Y. C., COMPLY WITH COMMITMENT SUPPLY TINPLATE AT BEGINNING APRIL AND ITS POSTPONEMENT OF SHIPMENT UNTIL MAY. BENHIMA SAID MINISTRY COMMERCE EXTREMELY CONCERNED AS FAILURE TO DELIVER THIS TINPLATE IN APRIL WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR SARDINE CANNING INDUSTRY. ORDER WAS AWARDED TO U. S. FIRM BY MINISTRY COMMERCE PRIMARILY TO ACCELERATE DRAWDOWN OF AID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND MINISTRY COMMERCE WILL COME IN FOR STRONG CRITICISM IF TINPLATE NOT SUPPLIED ON TIME. WE UNDERSTAND PROBLEM STEMS FROM BREAKDOWN MACHINERY USED BY MANUFACTURER, U. S. STEEL COMPANY, FOR PRODUCTION SPECIAL SIZE TINPLATE NEEDED BY MOROCCAN CAN MANUFACTURER.

2. SHOULD FOREIGN MINISTER BENHIMA RAISE THIS QUESTION DURING VISIT TO WASHINGTON MARCH 29 AND 30 DEPARTMENT SHOULD INFORM HIM THAT AID/ RABAT TELEPHONED NORLANTIC IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING BENHIMA DEMARCHE. NORLANTIC FOUND AND OFFERED 1000 MT IN STOCK LOTS STANDARD SIZES OF WHICH IMPORTERS AGREED TAKE ONLY 150 MT. NORLANTIC RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM US STEEL THAT 2291 MT CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT SS FREEDOM MAY 4, BUT HAVING DIFFICULTY BOOKING SPACE THIS SAILING AND ENLISTED HELP OF AID TRANSPORTATION DIS.

2. SUNDAY' S INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE WAS TEST, AT LEAST IN EYES GOG, OF WHETHER CURRENT ACTIVE PHASE STUDENT DEMONSTRATION HAD RUN COURSE. SECURITY ENTIRE PARADE ROUTE AND ESPECIALLY VICINITY ATHENS UNIVERSITY WAS EXTENSIVE WITH ABOUT FIFTEEN UNIFORMED POLICE

AND PERHAPS AS MANY PLAINCLOTHESMEN PER BLOCK WITH BACKUP FORCES. IN VICINITY UNIVERSITY POLICE CONFISCATED ID CARDS OF ABOUT 1500 YOUNG MEN IN IMMEDIATE HOURS BEFORE PARADE AND SENT THEM HOME WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO CALL FOR CARDS NEXT DAY. COMMENT. CITIZENS WITHOUT ID CARDS ON PERSON CAN BE TAKEN TO POLICE STATION AND HELD FOR CHECK.

3. SMALL PLATOONS STUDENTS DRAWN FROM EACH HIGHER INSTITUTION ATHENS MARCHED IN PARADE WITH IDENTIFYING ARMBANDS. COMMENT. IN PAST YEARS MORE STUDENTS HAVE MARCHED THESE PARADES, LARGELY BECAUSE COULD DISCHARGE IMPORTANT PORTION PHYSICAL EDUCATION OBLIGATION BY SO DOING. REDUCED UNIVERSITY STUDENT PARTICIPATION THIS PARADE, AS WAS ALSO CASE LAST OCTOBER, IS IN PART BECAUSE GOG NOW COMBINING MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PARADES INTO ONE AFFAIR IN WHICH SIZE OF UNITS LIMITED IN ORDER KEEP PARADE LENGTH TOLERABLE.

4. ATHENS UNIVERSITY SENATE PUBLISHED DECLARATION MARCH 25 WHICH WAS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT RECONCILE STUDENT BODY WITH RECENT DECISIONS OF SENATE. SENATE ANNOUNCED IT CONTINUES CHAMPION STUDENT PARTICIPATION ACADEMIC AFFAIRS THROUGH STUDENT UNIONS BUT CONDEMNED POLITICAL CLAIMS WHICH LEAD TO INCIDENTS LIKE OCCUPATION LAW SCHOOL MARCH 20. REGARDING LAW SCHOOL EPISODE, SENATE SAID IT COMPELLED TO CALL POLICE TO ASSIST CLEARING BUILDING AS LEAST PAINFUL MEANS AVAILABLE AND THAT IF FORCE SUBSEQUENTLY USED IN EMPTYING BUILDING SENATE DENOUNCED ITS MANIFESTATION FROM WHATEVER QUARTER. FURTHER, SENATE WANTS DIALOGUE WITH STUDENTS, VIEWS STUDENTS' RETURN CLASSES AS SIGN THEIR GOODWILL, AND WILL INVITE STUDENTS IN NEXT WEEK TO "ELECT BY DEPARTMENT AND YEAR OF STUDIES REPRESENTATIVES" WHO WILL WORK WITH SENATE- APPOINTED PROFESSORS TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOG. LASTLY, SENATE PROMISES TO USE ALL MEANS SAFEGUARD AUTONOMY UNIVERSITY AND ASYLUM CAMPUSES. COMMENT. ONLY NEW ITEM IS CALL FOR STUDENT ELECTIONS WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPLIES SENATE READY SET ASIDE SYSTEM OF STUDENT COUNCILS ENGINEERED BY GOG LAST NOVEMBER IN ALL SCHOOLS OF UNIVERSITY AND MAKE FRESH START.

5. ATHENS NEWS REPORTS DELEGATION OF STUDENTS REPRESENTING MOST SCHOOLS OF UNIVERSITY COMMENTED SENATE STATEMENT REGRETTABLE SOME ASPECTS BUT WELCOME IN OTHERS. DELEGATES SAID STUDENTS PARTICULARLY RESENT CONFIRMATION THAT SENATE INVITED POLICE TO LAW SCHOOL BECAUSE "THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HOW THAT RESTORATION (OF ORDER) WOULD BE ACHIEVED; THE PRECEDENT OF THE RAID AGAINST THE POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL COULD LEAVE NO DOUBT IN THIS REGARD."

ON OTHER HAND, STUDENTS WELCOMED DENUNCIATION OF USE OF "FORCEFUL MEANS" BY POLICE AND WELCOMED SENATE'S RECOGNITION THAT BOARDS OF STUDENTS' UNIONS WERE NOT AT PRESENT PROPERLY ELECTED AS IMPLICIT IN SENATE'S INVITATION FOR THEM TO ELECT NEW REPRESENTATIVES.

6. ATHENS NEWS IDENTIFIED 18 CITIZENS REPORTEDLY STILL IN ATHENS' HOSPITALS AS RESULT INJURIES SUSTAINED CLASHES WITH POLICE MARCH 20. NEWS ALSO REPORTS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCED MARCH 26 THAT SIX YOUNG LAYWERS WHO SERVED AS DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR STUDENTS AND WHO WERE ARRESTED AT BEGINNING MARCH HAVE SMUGGLED "MESSAGE OF DESPAIR" FROM THEIR CELLS WHICH IS "CRY FOR HELP FROM PEOPLE TORTURED IN MOST UNBEARABLE MANNER." ON CLOSER READING, MESSAGE FILTERED THROUGH SECOND PARTIES TO OUTSIDE AND APPARENTLY DID NOT COME DIRECTLY FROM IMPRISONED MEN WHO ARE HELD INCOMMUNICADO.

7. PRO-GOG ELEFTHEROS COSMOS OFFERED ITS EDITORIAL BOX FRONTPAGE MARCH 26 TO GOG SPOKESMAN BYRON STAMATOPOULOS WHOSE RATIONALE FOR GOG'S STRONG LAW AND ORDER CAMPAIGN AGAINST STUDENT DISSIDENCE ADUMBRATES, ALBEIT UNINTENTIONALLY, PROBABLE CONTRADICTION IN THAT POLICY. HE WROTE: "THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN VERY SPECIFIC WITH THE PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS. THE CREATION OF ILLUSIONS DOES NOT HELP. THE COUNTRY SHALL BE LED TO A BETTER FUTURE THROUGH UNDISTURBED CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY AND THROUGH THE HELP OF THE LARGE MAJORITY OF THE GREEK PEOPLE LED BY THE YOUTH. IN THIS MANNER THERE WILL BE TRUE DEMOCRACY, THE LACK OF WHICH MADE NECESSARY THE ARMY INTERVENTION."

8. OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY REEMPHASIZING CLAIM BY UNCLASSIFIED

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STAMATOPOULOS (ATHENS 1731) THAT RECENT DISORDERS CAUSED BY ABOUT 500 STUDENTS, REPRESENTING ABOUT ONE PERCENT OF 50,000 STUDENTS ATHENS.
TASCA

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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